

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAJ-01 /081 W
----- 010117 /43

P 151044Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2925
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 6292

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,
SUBJ: VIETNAMESE VIEWS OF U.S.

1. SUMMARY: NORWAY'S AID AGENCY DIRECTOR, ARNE ARNESEN, GAVE US A BRIEF READOUT OF HIS RECENT FOUR-DAY VISIT TO HANOI(HE RETURNED TO OSLO DECEMBER 12). THE VIETNAMESE SPOKE TO HIM ABOUT THEIR REACTION TO MR. VANCES'S APPOINTMENT.
2. ACCORDING TO ARNESEN, THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP TO HANOI WAS TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF NORWAY'S BILATERAL AID TO VIETNAM. MOST OF THE TIME HE TALKED TO HIS WORKING LEVEL COUNTERPARTS WHO CONSTANTLY STRESSED THE VIETNAMESE DESIRE TO BROADEN VIETNAM'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA AND BEYOND.
3. AT THE END OF HIS VISIT, ARNESEN WAS SUMMONED TO A MEETING WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER THAN HIEN WHO STATED THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT COOPERATING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND STRESSED (ALMOST RITUALISTICALLY, ARNESEN NOTED) THAT "FOR THE TIME-BEING" VIETNAM WOULD REPY ON AID MAINLY ON THEIR SOCIALISTIC COMRADS OF EASTERN EUROPE.
4. ARNESEN ASKED HIEN WHAT THE VIETNAMESE THOUGHT OF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE'S APPOINTMENT. HIEN REPLIED THAT THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT KNOW MR. VANCE. HOWEVER, THEY WERE AWARE HE HAD BEEN WITH AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN IN PARIS, AND THEY VIEWED HARRIMAN AS A "GOOD

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STRAIGHT-FORWARD MAN," LEAVING ARNESEN WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE

VIETNAMESE WERE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD MR. VANCE. ARNESEN ALSO TOLD US THAT THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT SEEM TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE U.S. VETO OF VIETNAMESE UN MEMBERSHIP AND TOLD HIM THAT THEY EXPECTED THAT PRESIDENT -ELECT CARTER WOULD SEE THE PROBLEM DIFFERENTLY FROM THE PRESENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION.
ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, TRAVEL REPORTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OSLO06292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-1338
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761241/aaaabjak.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE VIEWS OF U.S.
TAGS: PFOR, US, NO, VN, (ARNESEN, ARNE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006